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4/8/53

DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON

April 6, 1953

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. George A. Morgan  
Acting Director, PSB

SUBJECT: Draft Reply to Nelson Rockefeller

I have studied Mr. C. D. Jackson's draft of a reply to Nelson Rockefeller which you sent me last Friday.

Attached is a draft reply which reflects certain changes in Mr. Jackson's draft which I feel should be made.

Attachment:

Ltr. to Nelson Rockefeller  
fr. C. D. Jackson, Draft 4/6/53.

S/ Walter B. Smith  
Walter B. Smith  
Under Secretary

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D R A F T

April 6, 1953

Dear Nelson:

At Thursday's PSB meeting the entire Board discussed your proposed language covering the reorganization of the International Information Activities and the Psychological Strategy Board contained in your communication of March 21.

Besides this, General Bedell Smith gave us a memorandum covering a more recent discussion between yourself and Don Lourie, which as I understand it, came up with recommendations somewhat different from those outlined in your March 21st communication.

PSB's reaction is as follows:

The Board feels that the overall problem of the ultimate organization of the Government's International Information programs, both overt and covert, should be a primary concern of Bill Jackson's Committee, and requested that Bill Jackson be advised of this fact in order that he might advance his schedule in such a way as to produce a recommendation from his Committee, after consultation with your group and with PSB, in time for any necessary legislative action. Therefore it would be preferable that final action not be taken on the Rockefeller report regarding the new international information agency until the Jackson Committee is prepared to report to the President. However, the PSB had the following reactions to your proposals as reported by General Smith at Thursday's meeting.

As to the ideas arising out of your more recent discussions with Don Lourie and the Secretary of State, the Board felt that it was normal and appropriate and feasible to have the head of the overt international information activities administratively responsible to the President. The Defense representative stated, however, that it was both unrealistic and impractical to have him "report jointly with the Secretary of State to the President where matters of foreign policy are concerned, and jointly with the Secretary of Defense where matters of military policy are concerned", and other members of the Board shared his view. The State Department is

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concerned not so much with regard to the mechanics of reporting as to insure that there will not be a channel of reporting on matters of foreign policy independent of the Secretary of State. Both State and Defense representatives felt strongly that it was difficult, if not impossible, to draw an exact line of demarcation between military and foreign policy.

The Board was also concerned with the dangers inherent in having the Board become too large, feeling that only a really small and manageable group could effectively handle matters of policy, particularly the delicate matters involving coordination between overt and covert. The Board therefore felt that, under the assumption that the organization anticipated by the Committee is made effective, the top operating people should tie into the Board for purposes of coordination, should be responsive to such coordination, should attend Board meetings when appropriate, but they need not necessarily be members of the Board.

S/ Walter B. Smith

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